

very long. I don't think it's a question of improving our education. I think we've done a good job in Nebraska, and all results, all test results would indicate that. But I'm afraid that we're going to have some deterioration if this continues that we pay our people less money than neighboring institutions. I think it is time that we deal with these present amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Senator Moore, with Senator Marsh on deck.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, it actually breaks my heart to stand here this morning and stand up in opposition to these amendments because I, like many of the people that have already spoken this morning, want to do all they can for education in the state. But I guess I have to stand up here and pinch you all and bring you back to the real world. It is great to sit here and pontificate and say the money we need to give the university, the great things we need to do, but the simple fact is the time is not right, there is not the money there this year. You know when I came into this Legislature, in January, I had the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Massengale. And he said, well, Senator Moore, you need to be a leader, you need to be a leader, be a leader and raise taxes. Then a couple...but a month later we spoke with state employees, actually. And one of the gentlemen testifying said, Senator Moore, you need to do what is just, fight for justice, justice is raising taxes and give the proper salary increase. Oftentimes our friends at the Lincoln Journal have written editorials on how this Legislature needs to have the courage to raise taxes and fund the university properly. Well, unfortunately, it seems to me as if the definitions of courage, justice and leadership all of a sudden mean raising taxes. Well, for me they don't. For me they mean setting priorities. And though I agree with what was said this morning, I think it is time to set some priorities here. We can't do it this year, but in the future let's take the time, research all the situation and set priorities. We give the university a large sum of money, this year actually \$169 million to be exact. Now in my own mind what we have to do and what I ask the university faculty representative who spoke at the hearing, I said, what do you want, do you want...is it important enough for you that we cut back on faculty to raise salaries, and he said, yes. So, given that direction, I think in the future we do need these faculty wage increases. But the only way we're going to fund them, it looks like to me, is if we follow the university's lead, in some ways, cut back where we have to, and then fund